

O I P E  
APR 29 2004  
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE  
EXAMINING GROUP 1641  
Docket No. CDS-221

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Thomas J. Mercolino et al.

Serial No.: 09/585,820 Art Unit: 1641

Filed : June 1, 2000 Examiner: Grun, J.

For : **SIMULTANEOUS DETERMINATION OF FORWARD AND REVERSE ABO BLOOD GROUP**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

April 27, 2004

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Catherine Kurtz Gowen  
(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)



(Signature)

April 27, 2004

(Date of Signature)

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner For Patents and Trademarks  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This paper accompanied the herewith filed RCE and is being submitted responsive to the Advisory Action mailed December 12, 2003 in the above-captioned application. A Notice of Appeal was filed in the parent case dated November 4, 2003 bringing the due date for the appeal to January 4, 2004. This RCE and amendment is filed with a Petition and Fee for an Extension of Time for a period of four (4) months. With this Extension of Time, the RCE

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and amendment will be due on May 4, 2004, which is within the six-month statutory period.

The following amendments are made pursuant to the requirements of Revised Amendment Practice, 37 CFR 1.121 – Final Rule effective July 30, 2003.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.